



DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

BOB HOLDEN
GOVERNOR

PETER W. HOFHERR
DIRECTOR

*Serving, promoting and protecting the agricultural producers, processors
and consumers of Missouri's food, fuel and fiber products.*

November 15, 2004

The Honorable Mike Leavitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

The recent discovery of the Asian species of soybean rust in the United States highlights the vulnerability of our valuable soybean industry to an outbreak of this disease. With approximately 5 million acres of soybeans planted each year in Missouri, a large part of our farm economy hinges upon the prevention and proper treatment of this destructive pest.

It is critical that our soybean producers have fungicides available for use in the event of an outbreak in the 2005 growing season and beyond. In a letter dated June 29, 2004, the Missouri Department of Agriculture applied for a quarantine exemption under Section 18 of FIFRA for the use of ten fungicides to control soybean rust. To date, we have received approval for use three active ingredients (six products). In the interest of soybean producers in Missouri and across the nation, I urge you to expedite the review and approval of propiconazole + trifloxystrobin (STRATEGO), tetraconazole (DOMARK), pyraclostrobin + boscalid (PRISTINE) and pyraclostrobin (HEADLINE). Adequate supplies of these fungicides and the previously approved products are necessary to ensure that producers have options in combating this devastating pest.

The use of these pesticides is a matter of critical importance to soybean producers across the state and nation; therefore, we respectfully request that this matter be given priority review.

Thank you,

Peter W. Hofherr
Director

C: Secretary Ann M. Veneman, USDA
Senator Thad Cochran
Representative Bob Goodlatte
Mr. Charlie Kruse, Missouri Farm Bureau
Mr. Dale Ludwig, Missouri Soybean Association